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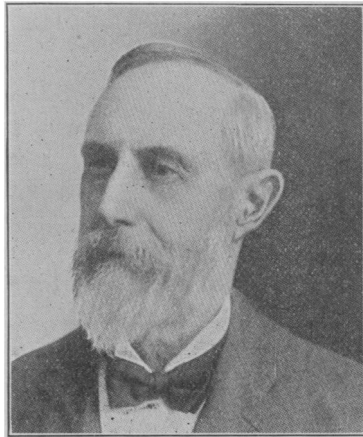
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JAMES C. COOPER.

By J. T. LOVEWELL.

IN the past year our Academy has lost another valued member, James C. Cooper, who died at the home of his daughter, in Los Angeles, Cal., September 15, 1911.

Mr. Cooper was born near the city of Baltimore, Md., June 16, 1832. His early education was very rudimentary, consisting of four winters in the common schools of Maryland in the early forties of the last century. At an early age he went to sea on a merchant ship and spent five years before the mast. He went around



Cape Horn to California in 1849, and there the lure of gold discovery led him to give fourteen months to placer mining on the North Fork of the American river. He returned to Baltimore in 1851, and was for a while reporter on the *Daily Argus* of Baltimore, and later on Forney's *Philadelphia Press*. Subsequently he was connected with an engineer corps in the location survey of a railroad up the Shenandoah valley in Virginia.

On invitation of his uncle, Peter Cooper, who had a glue factory in Brooklyn, N. Y., he went there and worked three years in the factory of his uncle. This uncle was the builder of the first locomotive in America, but is better known as the philanthropist who founded Cooper Institute in New York city. In 1855 our Mr. Cooper married Miss Virginia V. V. F. Porter, of Brooklyn, and

the young couple the same year moved to Iowa, where they spent five years in farming. Evidently this life did not suit him, for on January 1, 1860, he entered railway service, which was to be his occupation for half a century. His first engagement was with the Illinois Central Railroad, and while in that service he found time to publish for several years a newspaper in Centralia, Ill.

When the land department of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway was organized he was employed as its secretary, and remained with the Santa Fe in different positions until July 1, 1886, when he entered the service of the Rock Island as right of way agent, and after one year took charge of the tax business of this road, where he remained till he had, on his retirement, rounded out fifty years of railroad service. At the end of this period the tax business of the road was moved to Chicago, and Mr. Cooper was retired on a pension.

During all his eventful life he kept up a keen interest in scientific knowledge, and was especially well read in geology and mineralogy. Having unusual facilities in his railway employment for visiting many localities he became a collector of minerals, especially of crystalline forms, of which he gathered, named and classified 36,000 specimens. Mineral dealers and colleges became interested in his cabinets, and he sold valuable collections to Washburn College and to the Kansas State University. Besides these, he left a large private collection here in Topeka, which he contemplated moving to California had his life and health been prolonged.

About a year ago it seemed necessary for him to go to a hospital and undergo an operation for stomach trouble. He bore it well, and it was hoped for a time that he had obtained permanent relief, but he did not fully recover, and then, with the thought that he might be benefited by the milder climate of California, he decided to go there. His wife had died the February before his decease, and the bereavement and the long hot summer proved too great a strain for his low vitality, and after suffering for eleven days from his arrival in Los Angeles he sank to his long sleep in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Virginia C. Hartzell. Besides this daughter his only near surviving relatives are a granddaughter and his twin sister, Mrs. H. A. Merrill, of Grand Rapids, Neb.

Mr. Cooper was a member of the A. A. A. S., a member of the Academy of Science, of which he had been president, a member of the National Geographical Society, and of several fraternal orders.

His long continuance in railroad employ shows the esteem in which he was held by his business associates, and this Academy will miss the enthusiasm with which a new mineral would always excite him. As a "forty-niner" from California it was interesting to hear him recount his experiences of those stormy times of which so few are now left who can bear personal testimony. His face was so alert and youthful that it was hard to realize that he could have been an actor in those far-off events.

Mr. Cooper illustrated in his life the possibilities of scientific culture open to a man while engaged in business pursuits. Without the advantages of early school training, he became an expert in mineralogy and made valuable contributions to this branch of science.